



Government of Denmark

Livelihoods Stabilisation and Enterprise Recovery Project



50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

Successes & Lessons





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Livelihoods Stabilisation and Enterprise Recovery Project: Successes and Lessons

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Cover: Women learning to operate a hosiery machine at a project-supported common facility centre in Barpak, Gorkha. (*Photo: Indra Dhoj Kshetri/UNDP*)

This is the project completion report of the Livelihoods Stabilisation and Enterprise Recovery Project which UNDP implemented in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. UNDP Nepal is grateful to the Denmark Government for providing USD 644,000 grant towards this project. UNDP would also like to thank the Human Rights and Environment Development Centre (HuRENDEC) Nepal and Social Health Education Development Center (SHEDC-Nepal) which implemented the project in Dhading and Shree Swanra Integrated Community Development Centre (SSICDC) and Sustainable Enterprise and Women Awareness Society (SEWA), Baitadi which implemented the programme in Gorkha district. This report was prepared by Indra Dhoj Kshetri, an independent consultant and views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent that of the UNDP.

Quick Facts

Duration: January to December 2016

Total Budget: USD 644,000

Donor: Government of Denmark

Implementing Partners:

Gorkha

1. Shree Swanra Integrated Community Development Centre (SSICDC)
2. Sustainable Enterprise and Women Awareness Society (SEWA), Baitadi

Dhading

3. Social Health Education Development Centre (SHE-DC), Kathmandu
4. Human Rights & Environment Development Center (HuRENDEC), Kalikot

Achievements

1,965



received Entrepreneurship Development Training and Orientation on gender & social inclusion

30



Common Facility Centres were constructed that benefitted 447 poor households

1,620



Received Enterprise start up Support (Appropriate technology, tools and materials)

1,290



received Technical Skills Training

637



people were linked with financial institutions for access to finance

1,835



New Micro-entrepreneurs created

700



Micro-entrepreneurs received marketing support

1. Background

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake of 25 April 2015 that hit central hills of Kathmandu and subsequent aftershocks killed around 9,000 people and over 20,000 were injured. Over 600,000 houses were completely destroyed and 288,856 were partly damaged. Equally devastating was the immediate and longer-term impact on jobs and livelihoods. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their jobs and livelihoods and were left with limited access to public services, markets and community infrastructures. After the relief phase was over, it was imperative to help people, particularly the poor, stabilise their livelihoods. In this context, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with financial support from the Government of Denmark, implemented *Livelihoods Stabilisation and Enterprise Recovery (LSER)* project in Gorkha and Dhading districts targeting to support 1800 earthquake affected and poor households.

2. Outputs

Main objective of the project was to provide immediate assistance on enterprise recovery and create

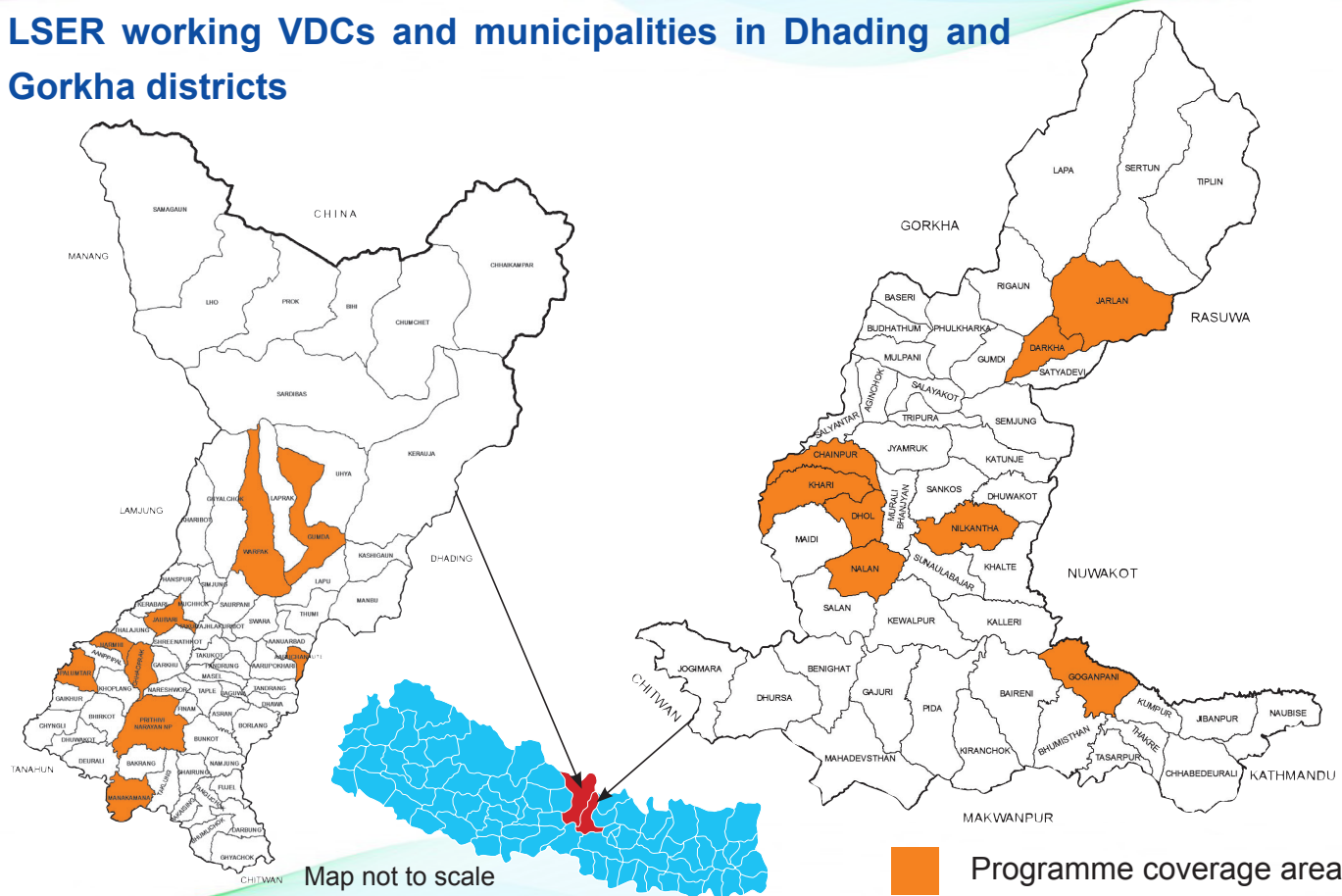
employment opportunities for earthquake affected communities. Following specific outputs were identified:

- Output 1: At least 1,800 micro entrepreneurs created and /or rehabilitated
- Output 2: At least 500 new additional jobs created
- Output 3: 30 Common Facility Centers (CFCs) or productive infrastructures rebuilt and constructed.

3. Geographical area coverage

The project covered Gorkha and Palungtar municipalities and 7 VDCs - Harmi, Chhoprak, Jaubari, Barpak, Manakamana, Aaruchanaute, Gumda in Gorkha; and Neelkantha Municipality and 7 VDCs - Jharlang, Darkha, Nalang, Khari, Dhola, Chainpur, Goganpani in Dhading district. Working areas were selected in coordination with the District Development Committee (DDC) and District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC).

LSER working VDCs and municipalities in Dhading and Gorkha districts



4. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

4.1 Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Household Surveys

Different tools such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and market and resource analysis were used to identify potential micro entrepreneurs and enterprises. A total of 68 PRAs were conducted in Gorkha and Dhading districts that helped to identify potential target groups, locally available resources and market demand. Similarly, 2,599 households were surveyed to identify potential beneficiaries. The detail of PRA and HHS are shown in Table 1 & 2.

Table 1: Number of participants in PRA

S.N.	District	Total	Dalit	Janjati	BCT	Women
1	Dhading	1,554	278	743	733	1,100
2	Gorkha	1700	335	594	771	897

Table 2: Number of households surveyed

S.N.	Districts	Target	Progress	Dalit	Janjati	BCT	Women
1	Dhading	900	1,584	305	731	548	1,162
2	Gorkha	900	1015	236	573	306	743

4.2 Entrepreneurship Development Training (SIYB)

After completion of the PRA, 1,965 potential micro entrepreneurs received entrepreneurship development training, the ILO certified Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) package and orientation on gender & social inclusion.

Table 3: Number of potential MEs involved in entrepreneurship development training

S. N.	District	Target	Progress	Dalit	Janjati	BCT	Women
1	Dhading	900	1020	204	461	255	639
2	Gorkha	900	945	221	461	263	713

4.3 Technical Skill Trainings

Of the 1,800 MEs selected for the support, LSER aimed to provide various technical skills training to 1,200 MEs. Altogether, 1,290 received technical skills training and enhanced skills in their chosen enterprise. Skill development trainings were provided in 22 enterprises; vegetable farming, poultry farming, bee keeping, goat rearing, beauty parlor, tailoring, boutique, fiber bag making, hosiery, mobile repair, house wiring, Dhaka weaving, bakery, pickle making, dalmoth making, hotel,

leaf plate making, nettle powder and bamboo stools making, cardamom farming and processing, incense stick production, and soap making.

Table 4: Number of new MEs who enhanced their technical skill

S.N.	District	Target	Progress	Dalit	Janjati	BCT	Women
1	Dhading	600	614	111	350	153	512
2	Gorkha	600	676	125	319	232	571

4.4 Appropriate Technology Support to MEs

Out of 1,965 potential entrepreneurs, 1,620 who wanted to start or revive their enterprises were supported with necessary technologies, tools and materials. Technology support included weaving looms, plastic sheets for green house, irrigation pipes, improved seeds, sewing machines, grinder machine for nettle powder making, cutter machine, pulverization machine, blower for blacksmiths workshop, leaf plate making machine, interlock machine, juki machine, Zinc sheets, water pumps for fish farming, etc.

Table 5: Number of MEs receiving appropriate technology support

S.N.	District	Target	Progress	Dalit	Janjati	BCT	Women
1	Dhading	600	815	173	438	204	598
2	Gorkha	600	805	188	383	234	646

4.5 Access to Market/Market Linkage

Micro entrepreneurs who have started their enterprises have begun to sell their products in local markets. They were also supported for exposure visits and participating in trade fairs and festivals. Altogether, 700 micro entrepreneurs were supported for exposure visits and market linkages where they learnt about running the business in the practical sense. From trade fairs, they were able to sell their products as well as to create linkage with potential buyers for supplying their products in the future. This contributes towards sustainability of their businesses.

4.6 Access to financial services

Access to financial services was the biggest challenge towards helping people to set up their own businesses. Due to the earthquake, each household was in need of money to rebuild their houses. Therefore, the project focused on providing as much capital support as

possible which would help them set up their business. Thus, each beneficiary was provided capital support worth Nrs. 15,000. For other enterprises requiring more investment, the field staffs of the partner organizations coordinated with local financial institutions and were able to attract their interest in our beneficiaries. Eventually, a third of the beneficiaries (637) received access to financial services. The loan amount ranges from Nrs. 15,000 to Nrs. 300,000. It was found that local bank had invested Nrs. 300,000 for mobile repair enterprise in Nalang and Nrs. 200,000 for beauty parlour enterprise in the same place (See case studies of Santosh BK and Pabita Duwadi). Given the early stage of the business, this is huge investment by the financial institutions.

Table 6: Beneficiaries of the access to financial services

Activities	Beneficiaries by caste/ethnicity			Beneficiaries by gender		Total
	Dalits	IN	BCTS	Women	Men	
Access to Finance	119	307	211	312	325	637

5. Project Achievements

Output 1: At least 1,800 micro entrepreneurs created and/or rehabilitated



The project supported altogether 1,835 households to restart their livelihoods or start new enterprises. About half of the beneficiaries (47 per cent) are women. In terms of social inclusion, majority of the beneficiaries (51%) are from Indigenous nationalities and a significant number (22%) comes from Dalits (Table 7). A quarter of these beneficiaries were supported to revive the enterprises that they lost to the earthquake and about three quarters have started new enterprises.

Output 2: At least 500 new additional jobs created



The project was also successful in creating additional jobs as targeted. Altogether, 633 new jobs against the target of 500 were created as a result of hiring by the

new micro entrepreneurs. A third of the beneficiaries (32 per cent) of new jobs creation are women. In terms of social inclusion, more than half (52 per cent) of the beneficiaries of new jobs creation are Indigenous nationalities (Table 7).

Output 3: 30 Common Facility Centers (CFCs) or productive infrastructures rebuilt and constructed.



LSER planned to construct or repair 30 CFCs in two districts and there has been cent per cent progress in this regard (Table 7) and 447 poor families benefitted from these infrastructures. These infrastructures are built as disaster resilient and provide better working environment for the entrepreneurs. For many entrepreneurs who had lost their working spaces, CFCs are the boon that help them to continue their businesses or start anew.

Table 7: Achievements by Outputs

Output	Activities	Beneficiaries by caste/ethnicity			Beneficiaries by gender		Total
		Dalits	IN	BCTS	Women	Men	
1	MEs Creation	407	939	489	868	967	1835
2	Employment Creation	112	337	184	202	431	633
3	CFC construction	63	280	104	369	78	447

6. Conclusion

6.1 Revival of Livelihoods

Even after a year of the earthquake, people were struggling to revive their livelihoods. The project helped the beneficiaries to revive livelihoods and lay first milestone towards micro enterprise – the sustainable livelihood option. A complete business development package starting from entrepreneurship development training to startup capital along with supply of required tools and techniques helped them to quickly start livelihoods; and linkage to market and financial institutions contributed towards the sustainability of the enterprises.



Bikala Rijal of Nalang-6, Dhading learnts to operate a hosiery machine at a LSER supported CFC in Archale.

6.2 Recovery of market systems

The project also supported people who were already in business to revive their enterprises. This helped quicker recovery of local market systems, thereby helping local economy to revive and the whole market system to function. With improved skills and use of modern technology, the beneficiaries contributed for better and more resilient market system. For example, women in Manakamana VDC of Gorkha used to produce leaf plates and supply to Manakamana temple. The leafplates

were used by the devotees to carry offerings to the Goddess. Now, with new pressing machine, the leafplates are smooth and more beautiful and hence the restaurants in Manakamana market are using to serve snacks to their gardens. Introduction of the machine has helped the women to boost as well as diversify their production. (See P. 20)

6.3 Common Facility Centres for Collective enterprise

The project built 30 Common Facility Centres, targeting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, mostly women and Dalits. The beneficiaries were excited that they had a safe and well-equipped work space. This has given them unique confidence to venture into new enterprises or diversify their livelihoods. Particularly, the blacksmiths were excited with new workshop building as well as the new equipments. Even young returnee migrant workers in Barpak said that they are willing to stay back in the country and work in the common facility centre. Blacksmiths workshops always support the larger

economy as they produce and repair the agricultural tools for an entire village. Revival of their livelihoods also helps the reconstruction work as they produce and repair tools used in building houses.

6.4 Contributing to food security and employment generation

The earthquake threatened the food security of the large populace. People could not start their farm activities for many reasons including trauma; the seeds were buried in the destroyed houses; and people could not concentrate on farm activities as they had to queue for receiving relief supports. Therefore, this project helped them not only to get them back to their farm, but also to do it better – adopt commercial farming and create sustainable income-earning opportunity. In addition to providing seeds, the project also supported them with basic technical skills, connected them with the service providers in the district, market and the financial institutions. Thus, the subsistence agriculture is being transformed into commercial farming and creating better employment opportunities. In the longer term, this will check the out-migration of youth for jobs, revitalize local

economy and contribute country's poverty reduction and employment generation goals.

6.5 Contributing to GoN's priorities

The Government of Nepal, in its recent periodic plans, has emphasized employment creation for rural poor through skills training and business development services. The Micro Enterprise Development (MED) model that the program adopted is one of the major tools of the government to contribute towards this goal. Hence, the government of Nepal, with support from UNDP and other development partners, is expanding the Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation Program (MEDPA) throughout the country. LSER's adoption of similar model will also support GoN's MEDPA program and overall policy to create rural employments and reduce rural poverty.

6.6 Long term impact

Though the support came in the form of post-disaster humanitarian support, the focus on livelihoods recovery has resulted into longer-term impactful interventions. With complete business development package, the

people are creating sustainable enterprises. Therefore, the UNDP can mobilize its existing structure in the district to monitor the outcome of this project and measure impact over a longer period.

7. LESSONS LEARNED

7.1 Partnership and Coordination

Before implementing the project, LSER worked closely with District Disaster Relief Committee and the local body – the District Development Committees to choose the target VDCs and working areas. All stakeholders including political party representatives were oriented on the working modality of the project. Similarly, the project organized orientations in each project working VDCs. The orientation focused on working modality and target groups of LSER, beneficiary selection process along with briefing the roles and responsibilities of VDC level stakeholders. Participants included VDC Secretary, Ward Citizen Forum, government officials, local level NGOs staff, journalists, representatives from political parties, women, and other marginalized communities. During the orientation, target communities and area of

project interventions were also discussed.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, there was an influx of various donor supported projects that were criticized for - delivering very little in the field; and having little coordination with the government agencies or the local body. Hence, LSER also had to tackle this anxiety. With increased coordination and participation of the government agencies, local body and the political parties in planning and implementation, the program was able to receive support from all sides.

7.2 Entrepreneurship development training boosts business confidence and is replicated by other programmes

About one hundred beneficiaries were interviewed while preparing this report. All the beneficiaries told that entrepreneurship development package – the ILO certified Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) package¹ was very effective in providing them business

¹ The SIYB was adapted and adopted first time in Nepal by Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP), a joint poverty alleviation initiative of the Government of Nepal and UNDP. The package is welcomed by various programmes of the the government of Nepal and development partners.

literacy and confidence. All of them said that they could understand the basics of market and the customers; and map the buyers and raw materials providers. At one instance, previously a housewife, Pramila Kumal of Gorkha Municipality – 9 who started an eatery after receiving support from the training, said that she aims to buy a pickup truck and transport and sell vegetables produced by another group supported by the same programme. She said that she derived the confidence from the SIYB training and subsequent support.

This has largely been internalized by other stakeholders too. Therefore, when Swanra Sadan Village Development Centre, a partner organization of LSER too, partnered with Save the Children to support livelihoods revival, it adopted SIYB in the support package. At the national level, the Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) of the Government of Nepal has also adopted SIYB package in its livelihoods recovery component.



Pramila Kumal, formerly a housewife, has started an eatery after the project support. She dreams big- to become a vegetable supplier to the local market.

7.3 Follow-up support and linkage

They will require further support like business counseling and market linkages. Starting entrepreneurs can discontinue their businesses even due to small hiccups. Business counseling will be instrumental to promote their self-esteem through hiccups and small shocks. Therefore, UNDP should work with the government of Nepal to expand the reach of MEDPA in both the districts. The MEDPA can also support these entrepreneurs to form District Micro Entrepreneurs' Groups Association (DMEGA) so that they can advocate for their interest and also to create a mechanism so that they continue to receive further business development services.

7.4 Insufficient support

In some instances, it was found that the beneficiaries didn't receive adequate training and technology support. For example, the hosiery training in Barpak, Gorkha was three months long for which the project collaborated with Tewa, another NGO. But the same training was only 19-day long in Nalang, Dhading. This was further taxing on the beneficiaries as they were learning themselves on

trial and error basis.

Similarly, due to the lack of piercing machine, the fibre bags making enterprise in Chainpur, Dhading was holding its production. This was attributed to shorter duration of the project. However, such inadequate support was further taxing on the target population as the women were spending a lot of raw materials to learn some basic skills themselves in Nalang while in Chainpur, they had to sell for less price than what they could receive for machine pierced shopping fibre bags.

7.5 Good program welcomed and owned by community and stakeholders

The district and village level government agencies and political parties have unequivocally welcomed the program interventions. In Gorkha, the VDCs and the District Development Committee have identified the programme as the most effective and having longer term impact. District level government agencies including Cottage and Small Industries Development Board and District Livestock Service Office; local government bodies - the District Development Committee, Gorkha

municipality office and all the program VDCs have, in written, requested UNDP to expand the programme (See annex 3 for the translation of the letters from Cottage and Small Industries Development Board and District Development Committee). While in Dhading, the political leaders of all three major political parties (Nepali Congress, CPN UML and CPN Maoist-Centre) expressed positive attitude towards the program and appreciated the coordination that the program sought. They said such program should have longer duration and asked if the program could be extended. This was unique to this project as many other interventions were criticized for just spending a lot of money in the name of reconstruction and delivering very little on the ground.

7.6 Promotion of green enterprises protects forest and ensures sustainable enterprise

The project has supported numerous green enterprises like incense sticks, bamboo stools and leaf plates making. Though these enterprises acquire raw materials from forests, they do not contain any threat to deforestation. However, the raw material extracted from forests is too less while the economic benefit was found encouraging the beneficiaries to protect and expand the forest. For leaf plates making, people were using the leaves that renew every year. In most cases and particularly for leaf plates, these raw materials are freely and abundantly available and hence the enterprises were found very profitable.

Success stories and case studies

Reviving livelihoods at the epicenter

Barpak in Gorkha VDC is the epicenter of the earthquake. This is a unique settlement as over 1,000 households sit atop a plateau at the altitude of 1900 metre. This is one of the most densely populated villages in Nepal. As the earthquake hit, undoubtedly, this village had the highest casualty in a single village – 72 people lost their lives and the beautiful village turned into a heap of stones and mud.

Many organizations flocked to this area with immediate relief assistance and others continue to support in the reconstruction and livelihoods of the people. LSER supported them in a unique and more sustainable

way. In following pages we present stories of three interventions LSER had in this village.



Barpak Village, the epicenter of 2015 earthquake still awaits reconstruction.

Improved Blacksmiths' workshop boosts confidence and self-esteem of Dalits

Kanchha Kami of Barpak – 5 had never thought that they could have a safe, spacious and beautiful workspace equipped with modern equipments and tools. Agog about the new blacksmiths workshop built through UNDP's Livelihoods Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery Project supported by the Government of Denmark, Kami says, "I had never thought that we could have such a work space in my life time."

Before the earthquake, the 49-family Dalit settlement served the whole village in repairing agricultural tools. The earthquake changed the settlement into a heap of rubble – not a single house was saved. Adding worry to the woe, their settlement was found unfit for settlement by the geologists. In such a moment, the common facility centre built through



LSEER support came as a lifeline.

They can now not only repair agricultural tools but also produce new tools. Subas Sunar said the support not only revived their livelihoods but also helped to make it more efficient. He adds, "It will increase productivity as electricity-operated tools will reduce labour and save charcoal use. Now, we can make better income by using lesser resources and efforts."

Chandra Kumar BK had returned home from Saudi Arabia immediately after the earthquake. With such a facility at his own village, BK is rethinking whether he will return to the gulf country for employment. "Others have done this much for us, why cannot we do something for ourselves?" Questions BK.

Women take the lead for rural enterprise

Chitmaya Gurung and nine other women of Barpak VDC ward no. 4, 7 and 8 have organized themselves into a group and started a hosiery enterprise. They travel to a Common Facility Centre constructed through UNDP's Livelihoods Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery Project supported by the Government of Denmark everyday and are learning skills to operate the hosiery machine. Many of them were found giving finishing touch to the sweaters they had just woven.

Gurung is the chairperson of the group. She said she and her group members are excited because they can weave garments in their own village for which they earlier used to buy from faraway markets. She added, "The Entrepreneurship development training has made us aware that we should become entrepreneurs and after this training we are confident that we can compete

with goods produced elsewhere."

With the machine, the women can prepare upto 15 sweaters a day. Additionally, they can also produce other garments like muffler, socks, shawls, etc.

Ashmi Ghale, another group member, said the enterprise is a boon to Barpak where it is cold for about ten months of the year. She adds, "There is no problem of market as people have to wear warm clothes for most of the time of a year. Moreover, we have also received market assurance from schools."

The entrepreneurship development as well as technical skills training and a safe and disaster resilient workspace has given these women, who were earlier either housewives or wage laborers, a unique confidence to run the enterprise.

All the group members were excited that they had a safe and well-equipped work space. This has given them unique confidence to venture into new enterprises or diversify their livelihoods.

The workshop supports the larger economy as they produce and repair agricultural tools for an entire village and revival of their livelihoods will help the reconstruction work as well.

Reviving home stay puts Barpak back in the tourist map

Til Kumari Ghale and 12 other women were operating home stays in Barpak. After the earthquake hit, her village being the epicenter, all but a handful of houses were flattened. All the houses running home stays were not spared either. Til Kumari and other women had lost hopes to revive their business.

However, with support from UNDP's Livelihoods Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery Project supported by the Government of Denmark, they have become able to revive their business in a very short period.

The project provided them entrepreneurship development training and each family received upto three beds and tea-tables. With this support Ghale and six others have become able to revive their business while ten others will start home stay after building houses.

After receiving entrepreneurship development training and exposure visits, Ghale is hopeful of not only reviving



Home stay entrepreneurs welcoming the guests.

the business but doing it better. Also the number of home stay operators has increased to seventeen.

Pur Bahadur Ghale, one of the earliest revivers of the business who has the capacity of accommodating eight persons, says that exposure visit was very helpful to further improve the home stay operation. As tourists start trickling to this beautiful village, Ghale has found new hopes, "Earlier, people used to say they were terrified to visit this village for being the epicenter. Now, people are curious to visit this village. After all the home stay operating members rebuild their houses, we will do it better and in bigger ways."

Revival of Leafplate making ‘appeases’ Manakamana



Kerpani, situated in the heart of Manakamana VDC in Gorkha district, is a 25 household settlement of Gurung ethnic population. The village is just about half an hour away from Manakamana temple, one of the holiest Hindu pilgrimages in Nepal.

Before the earthquake, women here used to supply leaf plates to the Manakamana town where they were used by devotees to carry offerings to the temple. Luckily, the village is surrounded by dense Sal forest which ensures incessant supply of green and dry leaves for making leaf plates. The women group used to manually make and supply about 1,200 leaf plates per day and that was not significantly changing their livelihood.

When the earthquake destroyed their houses, this very line of livelihoods was also threatened as they had no space for working or storing the raw materials and finished goods. However, things have started to change for good after Livelihood Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery (LSER) project intervention that not only helped them construct a Common Facility Centre but also provided them a modern machine and training to operate this machine.

With the machine, the women group’s productivity has grown over four times to 5,000 leaf plates per day. And each member of the 25-member group can consistently make up to NRs. 15,000 a month.

Keshari Gurung said, “With the new machine, our work has become very efficient; we can produce similar amount of leaf plates in three times less time.”

“This is great boon to the women”, Keshari added, “we can spend more time with the family and also use it in other income generating activities like vegetable farming.”

Now, with new pressing machine, the leaf plates are smooth and more beautiful and hence the restaurants in Manakamana bazaar are using to serve snacks to

their guests. Introduction of the machine has helped the women not only to increase but also diversify their production.

Til Kumari Gurung, the Chairperson of the group said, “After diversification of the market, we have not been able to meet the increased demand.”

Income opportunity in the village excites women

19-year old Gyanimaya Gurung of Nilkantha Municipality – ward no. 1 had never thought that there would be income opportunity at her own village. Married at an early age, she was reliant on the remittance her husband sent from gulf country for everything.

However, after the UNDP’s Livelihoods Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery Project supported by the Government of Denmark started working in her village, her thought has changed for good. She along with 9 other women were trained by the project on Dhaka weaving. The project also built a safe and disaster resilient common facility centre, a common workspace for the women.

Now, Gurung and other

group members are working hard to run a profitable Dhaka enterprise at their own village. After the earthquake destroyed all the houses in the village, they are still living in temporary huts but the vigour to sustain the enterprise is resonated by every member.

Sumitra Tamang said, “We will be able to construct a new house only if we can sustain this business. So, instead of focusing on building a new house by taking loans, I am more focusing on it.”

Tamang and Gurung are excited that there is so much market demand. Confident, Gurung added, “I have seen great future in it. So, I will continue no matter what.”



Gyanimaya Gurung weaving Dhaka in the CFC

Beauty parlour beautifies Pabita's life

Pabita Duwadi of Nalang – 5, Dhading has taken quick strides towards being a successful entrepreneur. In less than half a year after she received entrepreneurship development training, she has set up a successful and profitable beauty parlor at Thantibhanjyang of the same VDC, also a rural market centre for neighboring settlements.

She was provided entrepreneurship development and technical skills training by UNDP's Livelihoods Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery Project supported by the Government of Denmark. Later, the project also provided equipments required to set up the beauty parlor. Now, she earns over Nrs. 1,000 per day and can save upto Nrs. 20,000 a month.

She has already registered her enterprise at the Cottage and Small Industries Board Office which gives legal recognition to her enterprise. By taking loan from locally based financial institutions, she

has further expanded her enterprise to sell cosmetic products.

Being able to start her own enterprise has given Pabita a lot of self-esteem and confidence. She said, "I always wanted to do something big in my life. However, situation was not favorable and the earthquake added woe to the worry – it destroyed our house. This is the best thing that has happened in my life."



Santosh serves a whole village

After the earthquake destroyed house, Santosh BK of Nalang – 6, Chhapagaon had returned home from temporary employment in Kathmandu. For about a year, he was not sure whether to return to Kathmandu. Meanwhile, he came into contact with UNDP's Livelihoods Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery (LSER) Project.

Through the support of the Government of Denmark, LSER had entered his village to support the earthquake affected people to revive their livelihoods or start new enterprises.

BK was selected as one of the potential entrepreneurs. The Entrepreneurship Development Training inculcated in him a culture of entrepreneurship and he chose mobile repairing as potential enterprise. Thus, he received



one-month mobile-repairing training from the project.

Immediately after the training in Dhading bazaar, the district headquarter, he returned home and set up a mobile repair shop at Thantibhanjyang of the same VDC.

In less than half a year, he has done the business so well that a local financial

service provider has invested over Nrs. 300,000 in his mobile repair shop.

BK said, "This is such a pleasure that I can be remain with the family and support them during highs and lows."

For many youths, BK has become an ideal to emulate in the village. And the villagers are happy that they don't have to travel to Dhading bazaar or Kathmandu to repair their mobile phones.

Anjana's driving dream comes to reality

Anjana Devkota, 23, from Palungtar municipality ward number-10 in Gorkha wanted to do something unconventional in her life. However, many things including obligation to support her family in farming was holding her back.

However, after she came into contact with UNDP's Livelihoods Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery (LSER) Project, she realized that her dream could come true.

After receiving entrepreneurship development training, she chose driving as her career. She says, "As there are very few women in driving profession, I hope to get an opportunity to work here in my own country."

She has no hurry to jump into a job as she is also continuing her study in grade XI, but she regrets that had such opportunity been there earlier, her brother would not have been obliged to migrate to gulf country for job.



Samana's big poultry dream

At 21, Samana Gurung of Aaruchanaute VDC, Gorkha is already moving towards setting up a successful business. Born in a poor family, she felt obliged to be involved in income-generation after her father, the only bread earner in the family, migrated to gulf for employment after the earthquake destroyed her house.

After coming into contact with LSER which provided her entrepreneurship development and technical skills training, she is now dedicated to elevate the economic status of her family.

With capital support of 300 chicks from the project, she has started poultry farming at a shade built by herself nearby her home. She has already sold the first lot which earned her Nrs. 20,000 net profit.

This has given her further encouragement and confidence. She said, "Now I have developed self-confidence and am thinking about expanding the capacity of the shed and adding more chicks."



Annex ...

Letters from GoN agency and local body for programme extension

Office of the District Development Committee, Gorkha

Ref. no. 073/074

Regd. No. 1490

Date: 21 December 2016

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Lalitpur, Nepal

Subject: Regarding continuation of the programme

In reference to the aforementioned subject, the Livelihoods Stabilisation and Enterprise Recovery project supported by the Government of Denmark and implemented in partnership of the United Nations Development Programme, Shree Swanra Sadan Village Development Centre, Gorkha and SEWA, Baitadi was implemented following Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation programme model of the Government of Nepal. Though the project achieved its targets as per the contract, it is requested that the programme be extended to support other earthquake affected enterprises and the nine-month period is too short for the sustainability of entrepreneurs created through the project.

Signed

Narayan Acharya

Local Development Officer

Cottage and Small Industries Development Board

Branch Office, Gorkha

Ref. no. 073/074

Regd. No. 845

Date: 21 December 2016

UNDP Nepal

Pulchowk, Lalitpur.

Subject: Regarding continuation of the programme

In reference to the aforementioned subject, the Livelihoods Stabilisation and Enterprise Recovery project (LSERP) implemented through the financial and technical assistance of the Government of Denmark and UNDP has supported the earthquake affected entrepreneurs for livelihoods recovery in Gorkha district. As the program duration is too short, it is requested to continue the project in Gorkha district.

Signed

Bishnu Prasad Neupane

Chief Industry Officer, a. i.



